

AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW
U.S. Appln. No. 10/689,543

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A process for producing a nanocomposite, comprising the steps of:

preparing a bridged clay by a process comprising heat treatment; and
mixing with an organic compound,

to thereby obtain a nanocomposite comprising clay and an organic compound, in which the clay is a clay bridged with a metal compound in order to facilitate intercalation of the organic compound.

13. (currently amended): A process according to claim 12, in which preparation of the bridged clay comprises the steps of:

adding a mixture of an oligomeric solution of a metal compound to the clay in suspension;

eliminating the excess solution by centrifuging;

washing the residue;

drying; and

said heat treatment.

14. (original): A process according to claim 12, further comprising a step for treating the bridged clay with a compatibilizing compound prior to mixing with the organic compound.

15. (original): A process according to claim 14, in which the compatibilizing compound is a quaternary ammonium salt.